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Loddon

LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL Farthing Green House Loddon Norwich Norfolk Nor 23W
Telephone Loddon 551-553

R. A. Gorham *Clerk of the Council*

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1971

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

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LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1971

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1971.

The estimated residential population received from the General Register Office shows no change from the previous year and is given as 13,770.

A study of the annual returns in the tables of the following pages show a remarkable similarity in most respects in each succeeding year. In many ways this is encouraging as it indicates that we are managing to stave off the ravages of epidemic disease due to micro bacteria - most notably in recent years the virus of measles.

There are, however, still too many notifications of this latter disease being made to us. We have studied all these carefully and so far as we can judge we have not had one for a child who has previously received the measles vaccine. This suggests that there is a possibility of completely eliminating this disease and with it the 400 deaths occurring annually throughout the country, not te mention the permanent ear, eye, lung and brain damage in a much greater number who do not die. At least one unimmunised child in Area 5 is known to have had a serious brain infection from this cause.

Looked at in another way the stability of the statistics over the years is disappointing. For example, the number of illegitimate births shows no downward trend. Some 20% of the considerable number of persons dying of coronary thrombosis are under 65 years of age and 10 persons out of the total of 11 of those dying of lung cancer and the total numbers show no signs of falling from this eminently preventable disease.

An important factor for public health, not illustrated by the statistical figures of this report, which has exercised everyone's concern in recent years is that of environmental pollution. Although empty containers labelled cyanide were discovered in one tip in Area 5, we were fortunate in having no gross or dramatic illustration of this problem.

However, what has been referred to in the past by the diminutive title of public health nuisance is rapidly becoming eligible for upgrading to a public health hazard by simply increasing its volume. The bombardment of people's senses by adverse aesthetic standards must eventually be hazardous to their mental well being rather than just a temporary nuisance as in the past. Particularly is this the case of litter left indiscriminately on the banks of our watercourses and in the lay-bys of our roads in ever-increasing quantities. Every council has shown its concern by debating the problem, but to little effect. The penalty of the law has no deterrent effect for a crime to which so many are insensible over such a vast area. The only hope would seem to be in the long term to try to increase the sensibility to environmental factors other than gross pollution in the young. Very important and not sufficiently appreciated is how young this should be. The greatest influence on the development of character is probably in the very earliest years of our life. Development of personality involves more than physical safety and comfort during this period and is in the hands of parents who are themselves young and inexperienced.

A leading authority on child development lists the following psychological needs of a child:-

1. Affection and continuity of individual care.
2. Security rooted in a knowledge of belonging. Stable personal relationships and familiar environmental conditions.
3. A sense of personal identity, dignity as a human being and self respect.
4. Opportunity to learn from experience.
5. Opportunity to achieve success in some field of endeavour, however small.
6. Opportunity to achieve independence.
7. Opportunity to take responsibility and be of service to others.

Probably a majority of parents fulfil most of those obligations quite subconsciously; but one suspects that an ever increasing minority are reaching maturity having been deprived of all too many of these requirements. They, in their turn, fail to appreciate the requirements for the development of a whole person from an early age. So the vicious circle is maintained and ever increasing numbers defile the environment through lack of aesthetic appreciation.

As a possible long term solution, have we not the right to question whether compulsory education is started soon enough, and the priorities for what are considered essential subjects? Could not the successful indoctrination of the child population as experienced in Nazi Germany in the past and in China today be used for other than political motives?

A modern pollutant in country areas which has caused considerable intrusion is the spraying of crops from the air. The evidence indicates that on occasions there is considerable overspill of the spray beyond the crop area. This is very undesirable, especially when it affects small private gardens with their day to day crops of fruit and vegetables. I can offer no evidence of human ill health being the outcome of this, but aetiology of illness so often remains obscure that it may be a contributory factor. The law supplies compensation for damage, but the proof is difficult to supply and the legal costs negates the compensation. The smallholder who loses his bees and has to be advised that his strawberries are probably not safe to eat, just has to grin and bear it.

The scope of public health work is enormous when one considers that one could practically eliminate the biggest killer from cancer in the district by persuading people to stop smoking cigarettes and revolutionise the health of teeth by fluoridating water supplies. But progress towards these ends is disappointing and slow. At the local level I have suggested that more time should be given by your committee to the study of more parochial problems of public health by receiving a brief monthly report from your Senior Public Health Inspector. I was disappointed that your committee did not think that this would be of value. However, this was done with great courtesy, and for this courtesy and kindness which I have experienced from your committee at all times I would like to express my grateful appreciation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R. D. Harland

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Riverside Road,
Norwich,
NOR 19S.

LODDON RURAL DISTRICT - 1971

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	60,406
Estimated Resident Population	13,770
Rateable Value	£354,127
Sum produced by a New Penny Rate	£3,475

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	113	92	205
Illegitimate	7	5	12
Totals	120	97	217

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population = 15.8

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births = 5

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	114	92	206
Illegitimate	7	5	12

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Totals	1	4	5

Infant Mortality Rates
Total = 23 (per 1,000 live births)
Legitimate = 24 (per 1,000 legitimate births)
Illegitimate = 0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first 4 weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	–	–	–

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 18

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	–	–	–

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 14

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	–	–	–

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 18

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 7 Females - 5 Total - 12 = 5% of total live births

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) = NIL

Table 8. DEATHS (All Ages)

Males	Females	Total
76	73	149

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population =

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Prematurity	-	1	1
Congenital Heart Disease	-	1	1
Congenital Abnormalities	1	1	2
Accidental	-	1	1

Table 10. NOTIFICATIONSOF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	1	3	4
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	1	1
1 " " 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	1	-	1
15 " " 25	-	-	-
25 " " 35	2	1	3
35 " " 45	3	-	3
45 " " 55	3	5	8
55 " " 65	12	9	21
65 " " 75	26	15	41
75 and over	28	39	67
Totals	76	73	149

Table 11. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	1	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	5	9
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	15	35
Other forms of Heart Disease	4	7	11
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	6	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	7	10
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2	6
Asthma	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
All Other Accidents	1	3	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	2	3
Totals	76	73	149

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Live Births per 1,000 pop.	(193)	(190)	(198)	(184)	(217)
Loddon R.D.	14.7	14.1	14.5	13.4	15.8
Area 5	16.3	16.1	14.9	15.1	16.1
England and Wales (provisional)	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0	18.0
Still Births per 1,000 total births	(2)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(1)
Loddon R.D.	10.2	31.0	5.0	10.8	5
Area 5	9.4	9.6	12.7	12.3	6.9
England & Wales (provisional)	14.8	14.0	13.0	13.0	11.6
Crude Deaths per 1,000 pop.	(147)	(151)	(144)	(153)	(149)
Loddon R.D.	11.2	11.2	10.6	11.1	10.8
Area 5	12.5	13.3	11.8	11.7	12.5
England & Wales (provisional)	11.2	11.9	13.6	11.7	12.0
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	(1)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(5)
Loddon R.D.	5.2	11.0	10.1	5.4	15.8
Area 5	14.6	13.0	14.6	11.6	12.3
England & Wales (provisional)	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Loddon R.D.

2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Loddon R.D.

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Number of deaths	34	27	33	34	32
Percentage of total deaths	23	18	22	22	21

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Loddon R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1971	76	18	10	73	14	1
1970	76	15	8	77	19	2
1969	67	14	9	77	19	3
1968	79	16	6	72	11	1
1967	77	18	7	70	16	-
Totals	375	81	40	369	79	7

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Loddon R.D.
(According to Age Groups)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	2	2	-	-	4
Measles	-	4	12	-	-	16
Whooping Cough	1	-	6	-	-	7
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	-	1
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1	-	1
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	1	6	20	2	2	31

Table 16. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - During last five years - Loddon R.D.

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Scarlet Fever	-	2	5	4	4
Measles	114	179	38	23	16
Whooping Cough	3	9	1	8	7
Infective Jaundice	-	3	-	-	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	6	18	1	-
Food Poisoning	2	3	4	6	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	-	1	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	-	1	-	1
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	124	203	67	43	31

Information given by the County Medical Officer in respect of Vaccination and Immunisation carried out in Area 5 (comprising Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s) during the year is shown in Tables 17 to 23.

Table 17. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
787	268	30	1085	170	1256	1426

Table 18. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH - Area 5

PRIMARY			
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total
789	268	30	1087

Table 19. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-15	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total
803	286	130	1219	177	2063	2240

Table 20. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS - Area 5

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
787	240	61	1088	94	1728	1822

Table 21. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS - Area 5

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations last year is recorded.

Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
1577	55	1451

Table 22. GERMAN MEASLES (RUBELLA) VACCINATION - Area 5

This was introduced towards the end of 1970 and is offered to 13 year old girls.

Year	Vaccinated
1970	400
1971	484

Table 23. ENGLISH MEASLES VACCINATION - Area 5

	Age 0-1	Age 2-4	Age 5-14	Total
1968	11	369	656	1036
1969	81	234	587	902
1970	5	742	670	1417
1971	411	390	276	1077

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

for the year 1971.

Farthing Green House,
LODDON,
Norwich, Nor. 23W.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Norwich Water Order came into effect on the 1st April. This transferred the Council's water undertaking to the City of Norwich and this Council was only responsible for the running of the undertaking for three months of the twelve under review. It is, therefore, not possible to make a statistical comparison with previous years. At the time of the hand-over there was a public mains supply in each of the 39 Parishes.

The two members of the staff employed wholly on water supply were transferred to the City Undertaking.

SEWERAGE.

At the commencement of the year there were six main sewage disposal plants in operation serving ten parishes.

The design capacities and estimated population served by these works are given below.

In addition to these village schemes, there are also small disposal works serving Council or private estates where there is no main drainage scheme.

Existing Village Schemes.

Scheme.	Design Population.	Design Flow Gals/Head/Day.	Estimated Population served 1971
Brooke.	810	25	910
Loddon & Chedgrave.	1,800	25	2,246
Ditchingham.	1,033	30	968
Gillingham.	460	25	474
Ellingham, Kirby Cane and Geldeston.	977	28	949
Norton & Thurlton.	560	30	516

Effluents.

This Council agreed to share with a number of other District Councils in a laboratory service. Therefore, as from April it was possible to carry out routine analysis of samples from all works.

The results for the six works averaged over the year are as follows :-

Works.	No. of Samples.	B.O.D.		Solids.	
		Permitted	Actual	Permitted	Actual
Brooke.	5	20	23.8	30	35.0
Ditchingham.	5	20	7.6	30	20.2
Ellingham.	8	20	11.9	30	16.2
Gillingham.	5	20	16.2	30	35.6
Loddon.	10	40	20.5	60	34
Norton.	5	20	12.5	30	13.6

Effluents continued

The unsatisfactory result at Brooke was due mainly to samples in April and October giving high readings. These works are scheduled for replacement.

The results at Gillingham varied widely, possibly due to a somewhat unbalanced design. This works is, however, scheduled for modification and extension.

At Ellingham the new and old sections of the works were sampled separately on three occasions. The new section produced a very much higher standard of effluent on each occasion. This would appear to be due to the better removal of solids on this section achieved by the installation of Banks Clarifiers.

The River Authority also took routine samples during the year - five from Loddon, three from Norton and one from each of the other Works. Of these the one from Brooke was unsatisfactory and one from Loddon was marginal. The remainder were satisfactory.

New Works.

At the end of November construction started on the new regional disposal works at Sisland. The first stage of this work is designed to treat the sewage from a population of 8,000 and will replace the existing works at Loddon and Brooke. It will also receive sewage from Hales, Thurton, Alpington, Kirstead, Bergh Apton and Yelverton.

Septic Tanks.

The number of loads removed, with previous years for comparison, are as follows :-

	1971.	1970.	1969.
Private Houses.	911	901	725
Council House Plants.	273	274	277
Schools and Farms.	101	168	298
Main Sewerage Installations.	279	291	
Totals	1,564	1,634	1,300

1971 shows a decrease over the previous years, the first for several years. This may be partly due to the completion of Geldeston Sewerage Scheme and the subsequent connection of properties in that parish.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collection throughout the district was maintained on a weekly basis from the curtilage of the premises. Two vehicles, each with a crew of three men were employed full time and a third vehicle was used to relieve the vehicles on the normal rounds. 830 loads were collected equivalent to 34,800 cu.yds. of uncompacted refuse.

This refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Council's tip at Bergh Apton. Covering is carried out by a Chaseside Shovel driven by the tip attendant. Maintenance of the tip occupies this man for approximately half of his time. Whilst there is still sufficient capacity at the tip to last for several years, a shortage of covering material is becoming apparent.

During May and June a special collection for bulky items was organised. This collection was carried out with open hired lorries which were occupied for 88 hours on this work, as against 120 hours on the previous year.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

The number of Planning applications received during the year was 304.

The number of Building Regulation applications received was 342.

Completions under the Building Regulations were made up as follows :-

New Dwellings	100
Conversions to Dwellings	2
Alterations and Extensions to Dwellings.	133
Garages or Car Ports only	48
Other buildings.	13
Total No. of completions	296

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL continued

New Dwellings.

In addition to the new dwellings provided privately, the Council completed 35 dwellings. The accommodation provided was made up as follows :-

	Private.	Council.	Total.
1 Bedroom.	1	8	9
2 Bedroom.	16	15	31
3 Bedroom	82	12	94
4 Bedroom	1	-	1
TOTALS	100	35	135

The proportion of 4 bedroom houses is very low; the number in the total stock of dwellings is, no doubt, increased by later additions. Many of these additions are, however, difficult to carry out. It would be of considerable benefit if future extensions could be planned with the initial design of the dwelling.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

The number of premises which held licences for the storage of petroleum spirit was 68.

I. S. GLADDEN

Engineer and Surveyor.